

LEHMAN COLLEGE
ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
Minutes of the committee meeting
27 Oct 2023

Present: Diane Auslander, Duran Fiack, Kevin Johnson, Teresita Levy, David Manier (chair)

1. A quorum having been established, and minutes of the preceding meeting having been approved previously via email, the (online) meeting was called to order by Prof. Manier at 3:00 p.m.
2. We discussed how the war in the Middle East may be affecting academic freedom at Lehman. More broadly, in New York City and in the U.S., there are issues, but we have not been informed of specific violations of academic freedom at Lehman College. However, one faculty member has raised a concern about plainclothes police (NYPD Community Affairs) being on campus to observe a pro-Palestine rally. We are calling on members of the Lehman community to inform us if they experience infringements/violations of academic freedom.
3. We discussed issues related to AI, online teaching, and academic freedom. Will professors retain their intellectual property rights to their online courses? Will AI in some cases take the place of professors, thus limiting the rights of the professoriate to shape academic discourse? We will continue to consider these issues going forward.
4. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
David Manier, Assoc. Professor
Chair and Secretary Pro Tempore

Cc: Sophia Diamantis-Fry